

TITLE:	Charter of Earth Observation SIG
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CATEGORY:	Proposal

Proposal

That the OGC Technical committee establish an Earth Observation Domain Special Interest Group (EO SIG) to carry out the mission and activities outlined below.

1. Mission

The EO SIG will maintain a communications channel between OGC activities and the EO community. It will provide a means by which the EO community can make itself heard to the vendors of SCOTS as well as a means by which the vendors can learn from (and inform) the EO community.

2. Members

The initial SIG membership will consist of the following members and individuals with extensive experience in Earth observation issues:

Allan Doyle, International Interfaces, Inc.

Arnold Hougham, PCI Geomatics

Brian McLeod, Natural Resources Canada

Yonsook Enloe, NASA/SGT

[Note: the SIG Mailing List already consists of 49 members]

3. Planned Activities

The breadth of activities of OGC is of interest to the EO community. Therefore the EO SIG will primarily function as a communications channel between the EO community and OGC. Of particular interest to the EO community are the Interoperability Program initiatives.

The currently planned activities of this SIG include:

1. To establish a web site that provides an overview of OGC activities pertinent to the EO community
2. To establish a mailing list that allows all members of the SIG to communicate with each other
3. To provide an EO Information Community specific input to the other activities of the OGC.

4. Business Case

The primary motivation for this SIG is to provide an environment where providers, users, developers, and vendors of Earth Observation systems can carry on a dialog.

Traditionally, the "EO Community" has been considered one that is too small and too specialized in its needs to be a prime target for vendors of spatial software. However, recent developments in the CEOS (Committee on Earth Observing Satellites) community have shown that OpenGIS SCOTS (Standards-based Commercial Off The Shelf) based components can be used with great effectiveness to provide rapid assembly of systems. This development has fueled the need for the CEOS community (largely Government or NGO members) to connect to the vendor community found at the OGC in a forum where the users and the vendors can learn about each other.

It is believed that additional EO oriented communities share similar characteristics and needs and that a SIG within the OGC is the best place to provide the information exchange so vital to the future of EO activities. Within the OGC, the Catalog WG, the WWW Mapping SIG, the Image Exploitation SIG, the Coverage WG, and so on, are all working on interfaces that are needed in EO systems and services. The EO SIG is not expected to develop new interfaces as much as it is expected to provide a means for EO users to connect to the rest of the OGC activities in a focused setting.

5. Technical Scope

This SIG will provide materials to the Interoperability Program and to the Specification Process in the form of Use Cases and Requirements.